

Look Ahead Filtering of Internet Content

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Disclosed is a method for filtering content of web sites to block pages with specified content and all links to those blocked pages.

Various parties desire to block certain parts of the internet. For example, parents may wish to keep their children from seeing pornography; companies may wish to block employees from game sites, etc. So called "babysitter" programs are currently available to block sites that have objectionable content. The problem is that the availability of these sites is still obvious. For example, a teenager may see a link for a sex site. They try to take this link, but the babysitter program stops them. However, since they have seen the link, they know the site is available. They can then try to find a way around the babysitter program, i.e., go visit the site from a friend's computer, etc.

The present invention takes babysitter programs one step further by blocking not only objectionable sites, but the links to them. It does this through a look-ahead feature and dynamic editing of HTML. For example, the user selects a link to go to a web page. The browser requests the page, but before displaying the page, it looks ahead by following the links on that page. Call the links A, B, and C. It find that link C leads to a page which contains objectionable content. The program then edits the HTML to remove link C. The web page now displays and the user has no idea there was a link to an objectionable site.

This may be implemented as an enhancement to the web browser or as a browser plug-in.